

May 8, 2008 - Special Town Council Meeting

At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Middletown Town Hall on Thursday, May 8, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Paul M. Rodrigues, Presiding

Vice Chair Shirley R. Mello

Councillor Barbara A. Barrow, arrives at 6:25 PM

Councillor Louis P. DiPalma

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

Councillor Robert J. Sylvia, Members Present

POSTED – May 6, 2008

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following items of business:

- 1. 6:00 P.M. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Budget – Senior**

Board of Directors

- 2. 6:15 P.M. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Budget – Library**
- 3. 6:30 P.M. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Budget – Civic Appropriations**
- 4. 7:00 P.M. – Joint Meeting with School Committee – School Budget and matters related thereto**
- 5. Continued from regular meeting May 5, 2008**

Executive Session - Pursuant to the provisions of RIGL, Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. (a) (2) potential litigation, (5) land acquisition, (2) collective bargaining and (1) personnel.

Said meeting will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Paul M. Rodrigues, President

Middletown Town Council

CC:

Town Council

Town Administrator

Finance Director

Town Solicitor

Public Library

Senior Director

School Dept.

Human Resource Manager

This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Also present were Interim Administrator Shawn Brown, Deputy Finance Director Lynne Dible, Accounting Manager Deb Barrett, Accountant Mark Tanguay, and Senior Center Director Arleen Kaull.

1. 6:00 P.M. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Budget – Senior Board of Directors

The Council reviewed the Senior Center Proposed Budget FY2009.

Discussion centered around the following areas: Overtime, general supplies and maintenance expense, building maintenance, equipment purchases and replacements, heating oil, gas, refuse/waste disposal, and inspections/testing/other services. Senior Center Director Arleen Kaull responded to questions regarding the above mentioned discussion. Mrs. Kaull noted that there is only a slight increase in this overall budget. The Center is able to operate on a small budget due to the amount of fundraising held by the seniors.

2. 6:15 P.M. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Budget – Library

There being no persons present from the library, the budget was not discussed.

3. 6:30 P.M. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Budget – Civic Appropriations

Councillor Silveira recused himself from acting on the Civic appropriation request by the American Red Cross, due to a possible conflict of interest.

The Council reviewed the Civic Appropriations Proposed Budget FY2009.

Councillor Santos noted that there was a typo as to the amount of funding the Middletown Historical Society received last year.

Discussion centered around the following areas: the amount of funding agencies were requesting, agencies that were requesting an increase in funding, and new requests for the fiscal year.

Councillor DiPalma recommended level funding (as approved in the FY08 budget) for all Civic Appropriations including a new request for the Wildlife Rehabilitators Association of Rhode Island and partial funding for a new request of the Conservation Agency.

The Council requested the Interim Town Administrator supply more detailed information of each agencies funding request at the next special meeting, May 12, 2008.

On the motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess this meeting at 6:35 P.M. and reconvene at 7:00 P.M.

4. 7:00 P.M. – Joint Meeting with School Committee – School Budget and matters related thereto

Present, representing the School Department, were Superintendent of Schools Rosemarie Kraeger, Business Manager Cathy McLeish, School Committee Chair Michael Crowley, and members Vice Chair Liana Ferreira Fenton, Edward Draper and Theresa Silveira Spengler.

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger addressed the Council reviewing the Budget workshop packet and Frequently Asked Questions about the School Budget brochure entered here:

Mrs. Kraeger noted that their biggest concern is what will happen with funding at the State level.

Discussion centered around State funding, proposed budget cuts, regionalization, Linden School, Special Education, salaries, benefits and student enrollment.

5. Continued from regular meeting May 5, 2008

Executive Session - Pursuant to the provisions of RIGL, Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4 and 42-46-5. (a) (2) potential litigation, (5) land acquisition, (2) collective bargaining and (1) personnel.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess this meeting at 8:15 P.M. and to reconvene in executive session.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconvene this meeting in open session at 10:08 P.M.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation pertaining to Employees serving in Iraq.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to seal the minutes of the executive session pursuant to

Section 42-46-7. RIGL.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 10:10 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk